

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4770

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5998

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, MX, PFOR

SUBJ: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER
ON AMCIT PRISONERS IN MEXICO

REF: MEXICO 5528

1. EMBASSY IS IMPRESSED BY POSITIVE NATURE OF REPLY OF FONMIN GARCIA ROBLES TO SECRETARY'S LETTER ON AMCIT PRISONERS IN MEXICO (REFTTEL). WHILE CONTAINING PREDICTABLE DENIAL OF MISTREATMENT OF AMCITS, IT IS INTERESTING THAT IT IS CAST IN THE CONTEXT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION (I.E., MEXICAN PRISONERS HERE ARE TREATED JUST AS BADLY). OUR EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT THERE IS LITTLE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMCIT PRISONERS ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE MORE SUBJECT TO EXTORTION BECAUSE THEY HAVE (OR ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE) MORE MONEY THAN THE AVERAGE MEXICAN PRISONER.

2. FONMIN'S REPLY ALSO INTERESTED FOR ITS RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL STRESSES TO WHICH AMCIT PRISONERS ARE SUBJECT IN MEXICAN JAILS, IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY FAR FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND ITS PROPOSAL (THE FIRST TIME FROM THE GOM, SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE) THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO AN AGREEMENT FOR AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

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3. EMBASSY REALIZES THAT THERE MAY BE SUBSTANTIAL

LEGAL AND POLITICAL OBSTACLES TO REACHING SUCH AN AGREEMENT
ON THE PART OF THE U.S. (CONCEIVABLY, FONMIN IS MAKING
THIS PROPOSAL ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE USG CANNOT
RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY.) BUT EMBASSY URGES THAT THIS
PROPOSAL BE THOROUGHLYEXPLORED. IN ANY EVENT, IT SEEMS
TO US THAT THE FONMIN'S REPLY CAN BE USEFUL TO US IN
THAT IT OPENS THE WAY FOR THE U.S. TO MAKE PROPOSALS OF
ITS OWN TO DEAL WITH THIS VEXING PROBLEM.

4. WE ARE UNCERTAIN OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH FONMIN MAY
HAVE VETTED HIS PROPOSAL IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF GOM.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, ANY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BY THE U.S. SIDE
WOULD BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS
OF HIS PROPOSAL OR ANY COUNTER-PROPOSAL WE MIGHT WISH TO
MAKE.

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